

REMARKS

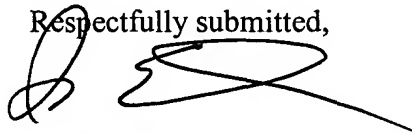
The above-identified application is a divisional U.S. Patent App. No. 09/704,115, filed November 1, 2000 (the "parent application"), which is a divisional of U.S. Patent App. No. 08/837,589 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,269,466), filed April 21, 1997 (the "grandparent application"), which is a divisional of App. No. 08/455,503 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,671,397), filed May 31, 1995, which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 08/174,654 (now abandoned) filed on December 27, 1993. Examination of the parent application was conducted by Examiner H. Tsai of Art Unit 2812. During prosecution of the parent application, claims 19-24 were cancelled in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 30-40 were added but were withdrawn from consideration by the Applicant. Thus, the Applicant elects to prosecute claims 19-24 and 30-40 herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Irvin E. Branch
Reg. No. 42,358

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
IEB:arl
DE 7106806 v1